

TRADESCANT'S ASTER (*Aster tradescantii* L.)
Compositae - Composite Family

Description:

Tradescant's Aster is a robust aster with white rays and yellowish to purplish centers. The flower heads are 1-2 cm across and have not more than 25 rays each. The leaves are narrowly lanceolate although the lower ones may be slightly toothed. It flowers in late July to early September.

Endangered Status:

Although this species is more prevalent in northern New England, it is considered rare in Massachusetts where it was not discovered until 1977.

Statewide Occurrences:

Current (since 1978): 3
Historical (before 1978): 2
Protected Populations: 0

Habitat:

Tradescant's Aster seems to be limited in Massachusetts to rocky ledges along the Connecticut River, usually within the range of spring floods.

Cause of Rarity:

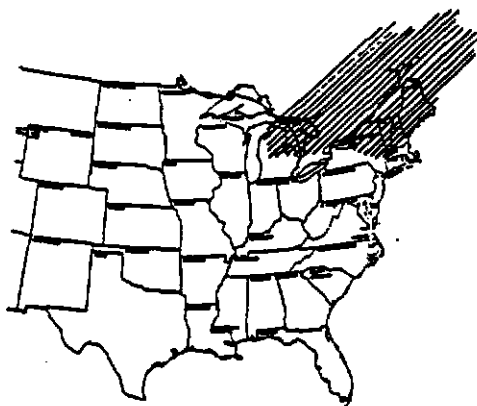
- * Southern limit of range.
- * Limited habitat.

Similar Species:

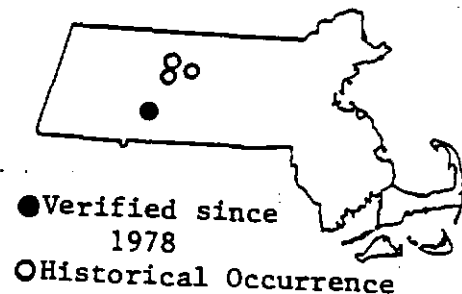
Small White Aster (*Aster vimineus*) resembles Tradescant's Aster except that Small White Aster has arching stems which are tinged with purple and very short rays on the smaller flower heads. The numerous heads are almost always arranged along one side of the branch. Panicked Aster (*Aster simplex*) can be distinguished by its much broader and longer leaves and numerous rays on the larger flower head (20-40).



Britton and Brown
(1913)



Distribution of Tradescant's Aster



Distribution in Massachusetts
by town